

Appl. No. 09/691,308
Amdt. dated October 17, 2003
Reply to final Office action of August 27, 2003

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 27, 2003. In the Final Office Action, Applicants' Claims 1, 6-8, 10-11, 13, 16-20 and 22-29 were rejected as obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Pat. No. 5,864,632 ("Ogawa"), Applicant Admitted Prior Art and U.S. Pat. No. 6,470,265 ("Tanaka"). Applicants' Claims 2-4 were rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Ogawa, Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Tanaka and in further view of "GDF, A Proposed Standard for Digital Road Maps" ("Heres"). Applicants' Claim 5 was rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Ogawa, Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Tanaka and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,081 ("Stilp"). Applicants' Claim 9 was rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Ogawa, Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Tanaka and in further view of "Sources of Satellite Imagery" ("Fowler"). Applicants' Claim 12 was rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Ogawa, Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Tanaka and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,138,072 ("Nagai"). Applicants' Claim 14-15 was rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Ogawa, Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Tanaka and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,099,331 ("Truong"). Applicants' Claim 21 was rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Ogawa, Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Tanaka and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,397,143 ("Peschke"). The Final Office Action allowed Applicants' Claims 30 and 31.

With this response, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 6. These amendments are intended to clarify the non-obvious subject matter recited in these claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. Applicants submit that Claims 1-29 are not obvious over the cited references. Each of these claims is addressed below.

Applicants' allowed Claims 30 and 31

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 30 and 31.

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Applicants' independent Claim 1

Applicants' have amended independent Claim 1 to include allowable subject matter (See, Final Office Action of August 27, page 22). Specifically, amended Claim 1 recites determining whether the report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, and if so, obtaining a satellite image.

Applicants' independent Claim 1 is not obvious over the combination of cited references because this combination of references does not disclose all the elements of this claim. Specifically, the combination does not disclose determining whether the report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, and if so, obtaining a satellite image. As stated in the Final Office Action, the cited references fail to teach or suggest determining whether the report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, and if the report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, obtaining a satellite image. (See, Final Office Action of August 27, page 22).

Because the combination of cited references fail to disclose all of the limitations of Applicants' Claim 1, this claim is not obvious over this combination of references. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Applicants' independent Claim 6

Applicants' have amended independent Claim 6 to include allowable subject matter. Specifically, amended Claim 6 recites determining whether the report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, and if so, obtaining a satellite image.

Applicants' independent Claim 6 is not obvious over the combination of cited references because this combination of references does not disclose all the elements of this claim. As discussed above in conjunction with Claim 1, the combination does not disclose determining whether the report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, and if so, obtaining a satellite image.

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Because the combination of cited references fail to disclose all of the limitations of Applicants' Claim 6, this claim is not obvious over this combination of references. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 6 be withdrawn.

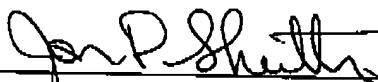
Applicants' dependent Claims 2-5 and 7-29

Applicants' Claims 2-5 and 7-29 are dependent claims that distinguish the cited references at least for the same reasons explained above in connection with their independent base Claims 1 and 6. In addition, these claims recite further features and limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by these references.

Conclusion

All the issues in the Final Office Action, dated August 27, 2003 have been addressed. Favorable consideration of the present application is requested. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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